

Briefings *Compiled by SAC Lisa Beth Snyder*

AMERICA and the War on Terrorism

AT press time approximately 28,000 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers had been called to active duty and continued to provide security at airports and other facilities around the country.

Pentagon officials honored 39 employees of the Pentagon's Real Estate and Facilities Directorate with the Medal of Valor for their actions on Sept. 11.

The Pentagon Victim's Fund, administered by Army Emergency Relief, has received \$4.4 million. As of Feb. 25, AER is no longer accepting donations.

On Feb. 13 a soldier died after a heavy piece of equipment fell on him at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

On March 2 a special forces soldier died during the early hours of Operation Anaconda.

On March 4 seven U.S. military personnel — four of them soldiers — died in two helicopter incidents in Afghanistan. The soldiers were killed in a firefight with Al Qaeda and Taliban forces soon after their MH-47 Chinook landed.

Since March 1 more than 2,000 U.S., Afghan and coalition troops have been working to destroy a pocket of Taliban and Al Qaeda forces operating near the Afghan town of Gardez.

SPC David Marck Jr.



COL Frank Wiercinski, commander of Task Force Rakkasans in Afghanistan, administers the oath of re-enlistment to SSG Stanley Richardson, SPC Armando L. Acevedo Jr., SPC Adran M. Hollar and SSG Scott M. Weaver.

PFC Jeremy Guthrie



During his visit to Afghanistan, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, took time to talk to 10th Mountain Division soldiers at Bagram.

Master Sgt. Keith Reed, USAF



Soldiers at Kandahar Airport hurry to load ammunition onto a waiting CH-47 Chinook helicopter, which then took off to deliver the cargo to troops fighting near Gardez.

PFC George Allen



Bill Hullender, AAFES manager, sets up soft drinks and snacks in preparation for Afghanistan's newest post exchange, at Kandahar International Airport.

SPC David Marck Jr.



10th Mtn. Div. soldiers participating in Operation Anaconda prepare to dig into fighting positions after a day of reacting to enemy fire.

Homeland Security Advisory System

PRESIDENT George W. Bush created the Homeland Security Advisory System so federal, state and local authorities, law-enforcement agents and the American people know of and can respond to terrorist threats as quickly as possible. Officials will use a color-coded system — conditions green, blue, yellow, orange and red — to identify the level of terrorist threat.



Low Risk

- ▶ Refine and exercise protective measures.
- ▶ Assess vulnerabilities and take steps to reduce them.



Guarded Risk

- ▶ Check communications with emergency response and command locations.
- ▶ Review and update emergency response procedures and provide the public with necessary information.



Elevated Risk

- ▶ Increase surveillance of critical locations.
- ▶ Coordinate emergency plans among all jurisdictions.
- ▶ Implement contingency- and emergency-response plans.



High Risk

- ▶ Coordinate military and law-enforcement security efforts.
- ▶ Prepare to move or disperse workforce.
- ▶ Restrict access to essential personnel.
- ▶ Implement precautions at public events.



Severe Risk

- ▶ Mobilize emergency and security groups.
- ▶ Monitor and possibly redirect or constrain public transportation.
- ▶ Increase or redirect personnel to address critical emergency needs.
- ▶ Close public facilities.



The National Symphony Orchestra will be among the attractions at the National Memorial Day Concert.

Washington, D.C.

National Memorial Day Concert Set

ARMED Forces Radio and Television Service and Public Broadcasting Service stations will air the National Memorial Day Concert May 26 at 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The concert, live from the U.S. Capitol, will honor the victims and heroes of Sept. 11 and mark the 60th anniversary of the Bataan Death March.

The event will be hosted by World War II veteran and actor Ossie Davis and will feature

fellow World War II veteran and actor Charles Durning, plus color guards and the National Symphony Orchestra. — *Devillier Communications*

Washington, D.C.

New Incentives Set For Unaccompanied Tours

TWO programs have been revised to help soldiers returning from Korea and other unaccompanied tour locations.

The Deployment Stabilization policy and the Homebase and Advanced Assignment Program, known as HAAP, have been expanded, the Army G1 recently announced.

After completing a tour in Korea or other dependent-restricted area, soldiers will be exempt from operational deployments for six months at their new duty stations. Before the

most recent revision, the deployment-stabilization policy only affected soldiers who had participated in operations-other-than-war deployments for at least 30 consecutive days.

Personnel officials said the stabilization program — which applies to both officers and enlisted personnel — was expanded to allow soldiers time to reacquire themselves with families and readjust to their new home stations. It also rewards soldiers for arduous periods of duty in which they were separated from family members, officials said.

The HAAP expanded March 1 to specialists and corporals who have re-enlisted at least once. HAAP participants can return to their previous duty stations after completing an unaccompanied tour or getting orders to their follow-on sta-

tions before leaving the country.

Expanding of HAAP to selected specialists and corporals will not apply to soldiers currently in Korea or those placed on assignment instructions before March 1, officials said.

For more information go to <http://perscomnd04.army.mil/milpermsgs.nsf/WebFrameSet?OpenFrameSet>. — *Army News Service*

Washington, D.C.

Military, Civilian Long-Term Care Insurance

THE Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies to provide a long-term medical care benefit for all federal employees

and retirees.

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term medical care in a nursing home or the patient's home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves or their families, including parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only themselves and their spouses in the program, according to information on the program's Internet homepage, www.opm.gov/insure/ltc.

An early enrollment period

is scheduled through May 15, followed by an open-enrollment season beginning July 1. Applicants may be required to answer health-related questions, provide medical records or be interviewed personally to be eligible for the insurance.

Rates will vary based on the amount of coverage selected, the type of inflation protection chosen and the current age of the person being covered.

Medicare, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program are not de-

signed to cover long-term care, officials said. They also emphasized the government pays no part of the premiums or benefits. — *American Forces Press Service*



Washington, D.C.

Army Ten-Miler Registration Begins

ARMY officials are accepting registrations for America's largest 10-mile race, the Army Ten-Miler, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20, in Washington.

The Army's premiere running event, it will take partici-

Web News

"Soldiers Forum" to Give Troops Voice on Web

SOLDIERS worldwide may submit stories, commentaries and other articles to the Army News Service under a new program called "Soldiers Forum."

The best of the articles will be posted on the "ArmyLINK News" Web page at the end of each week and sent to Army newspaper editors at installations and commands worldwide for their use as commentaries.

The purpose of the program is to "give soldiers a voice on ArmyLINK," said COL Stephen Campbell, chief of the Army's Command Information Division at the Pentagon.

If soldiers cite problems, suggested solutions should be included in the commentaries.

Campbell said the letters "can't just be 'peaches and cream.'" The forum should be more than just an outlet for laudatory comments, and should provide insightful discourse on subjects of interest to the entire Army.

He said the forum should include reflections and recommendations regarding everyday Army life, including duty in places like Afghanistan.

Observations about Family Team Building programs, the NCO Education System or Common Task Training are just a few examples of relevant topics.

More controversial topics affecting soldiers and their families that might also be discussed include drug abuse, domestic violence, street gangs, suicide prevention, retention, single-parent soldiering, operational tempo and personnel tempo.

Letters and articles of interest should be sent to the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, ATTN: SAPA-CI (Soldiers Forum), Rm. 2B720, 1500 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310-1500, or e-mailed to arnews@hqda.army.mil. — *ARNEWS*

Recruiting Update

Army Contracts Recruiting

MILITARY veterans began suiting up in civilian attire to recruit for the Army this spring.

The civilians are recruiting for the active Army and reserve component in Jackson, Miss.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Dayton, Ohio; throughout eastern Delaware; Tacoma, Wash.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Wilmington, N.C.; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Granite City and Homewood, Ill.

Two companies — Military Professional Resources Inc. and Resource Consultants Inc. — have been recruiting for the Army's reserve component since 1999. They're currently looking for additional recruiters who have been honorably discharged from the Army.

Besides undergoing initial training — which will include such topics as enlistment eligibility, current enlistment incentives and U.S. Army Recruiting Command policies and procedures — recruiters will receive additional training as necessary, Hunter said. They will also receive annual refresher training to stay abreast of Army and USAREC policies, he added.

Government contracts were awarded to the companies in accordance with the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, said Douglas Smith, the public affairs officer for U.S. Army Recruiting Command. — *ARNEWS*



The field of contestants at the Army Ten-Miler will be limited to 18,000 — and registration is first come, first served.